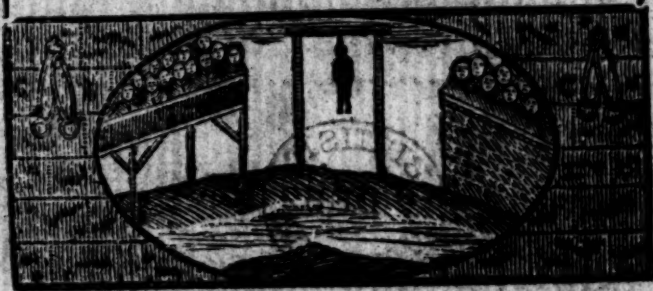


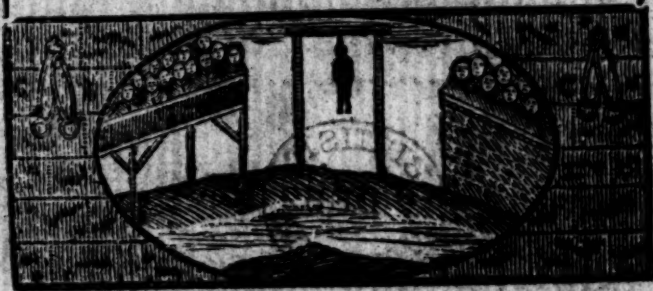


WILLIAM DODD, LL. D.





WILLIAM DODD, LL. D.



For: Harrington

AUTHENTIC
M E M O I R S

OF THE LIFE OF
William Dodd, LL. D.
WHO WAS EXECUTED AT TYBURN,

ON FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 1777.

WITH THE
Particulars of his TRIAL and EXECUTION,
AND A

REVIEW of the ARGUMENTS,
For and against his suffering the Sentence of the Law.

To which is added,
A LETTER from Lady HUNTINGDON,
To the unfortunate CONVICT.

The THIRD EDITION.

When you shall these unlucky Deeds relate,
Speak of me as I am; nothing extenuate,
Nor set down aught in Malice.

SHAKESPEARE.

S A L I S B U R Y:

PRINTED AND SOLD BY JOS. HODSON.

Sold also by Mess. Linden and Hodson, *Southampton*; Mrs.
Willis, *Ringwood*; Mrs. Clarke, *Cranborne*; Mr. Lacy,
Warminster; Mr. Spalding, *Trowbridge*; Mr. Stuart,
Bradford; Miss Noyes, *Andover*; and the Newsman.

[PRICE SIXPENCE.]

OF THE LIFE OF

WMO WAF EXHIBIT 17

On February 1, 1977.

247 1214

Presidents of the Trial and Execution

4. 216A

STANLEY C. GALT

Now, I want to say a few words about the importance of the law.

July 1, 1914

LETTER FROM LADY MONTAGU

10-11-1944



1941

24.1.3.1.3.1.3

PRINTED AND SOLD BY J. HODGSON.

2014-2015

WILLIAMS, Ringwood; Mrs. Celia; daughter; Mr. Lacy;

Warren, Mr. Spalding, Mr. Stewart;

Brayford, Miss Joyce, Ashurst, and the Newmen.

[REDACTED]

THE
L I F E
O F
WILLIAM DODD, LL. D.

IN a country so distinguished for a spirit of curiosity, as that wherein we live, it is not to be wondered at, that the public should be desirous of knowing every circumstance of that man's history, who, from a life of grandeur and popularity, sunk at once into the most abject state of wretchedness and affliction; and who, after having long supported a *sacred Character* unimpeached, was brought to the bar of Justice, convicted of an enormous crime, and sentenced to the ignominy of a public execution.

Yet we are sorry to observe, that while some have professed to satisfy this curiosity, they have not only deviated far from the line of truth, but have inhumanly added weight to the sufferings of the oppressed; having painted Mr. *Dodd* to the world

B

as a long-practised hypocrite, destitute of honour, shame, or honesty, a disgrace to his profession, and the pest of all society.

The circulation of such accounts is not only useless to the public, but extremely afflicting to the friends of the unfortunate Gentleman. Common humanity would at all times induce us to check the progress of scandal and malevolence; and though we mean not to decide on the innocence or criminality of Dr. *Dodd's* intentions, we may be permitted to offer an unprejudiced account of the transaction for which he has been sentenced, with a sketch of the material circumstances of his life; from whence the Reader will best judge whether he most deserves his censure or compassion.

Dr. WILLIAM DODD was the eldest son of a *Lincolnshire* Clergyman, and was born in the year 1726. His father, perceiving in him very early marks of genius, determined to educate him for the Church, and, after a preparatory instruction at home, sent him to the University of *Cambridge*, where he was admitted a Student of *Clare-Hall*. Here Mr. *Dodd* went through the usual course of study to qualify him for the Clerical Office; and by the assiduity of his application, soon became famous for his knowledge and taste in *Literature*.

In 1749, when the late *Duke of Newcastle* was elected High Steward of the University, Mr. *Dodd* was appointed (amongst others) to rehearse congratulatory Poems before his Grace, in the Senate House.--- The harmony of his voice, and his peculiar excellence of adapting a graceful action to a just and expressive delivery, could not fail of attracting general admiration. But Mr. *Dodd* received little pleasure from the mere applause of the public. His mind was full of higher hopes, and distant pleasures, and he conceived he saw *Preferments* showering down upon him, from the munificence of the High Steward. 'Tis certain that he had an equal foundation for his hopes with the rest of his brethren; for the Duke had squeezed his hand; professed an high esteem for him, and promised to be his friend.

Allured by these promises, and seriously depending on the protection of such a Patron, he left College, and went to *London*, where he paid constant attendance at his Grace's levee, till penury began to stare him in the face; and finding not the least prospect of success, he was obliged to discontinue his visits, and seek some other way of subsistence.

He had composed, when at College, some verses on the *Duke of Newcastle's* election, which had been dedicated to his.

Grace, and well received by the public. Hence he thought his poetical abilities might bring him in a decent maintenance, and he commenced *Dramatic Writer*; but the success he hoped for did not attend his pieces, and therefore, as the last resource, he entered into *Holy Orders*, and was content to officiate as employment offered.

After some time an advertisement appeared, for an assistant to the *Lecturer* of *West Ham*, in *Essex*, who was old and infirm; and Mr. *Dodd* having greatly increased his wants by a hasty and inconsiderate *Marriage*, immediately offered his services at *West Ham*. His fame, however, had so far spread itself, that he found no great difficulty in bargaining for two-thirds of the *Lecturer's* income, and at the death of the old gentleman (in about twelve months) Mr. *Dodd* entered into full possession of the *Lecture-ship*.

His audiences at *West Ham* were mostly composed of the middle kind of gentry, who had retired from the bustle of trade time enough to enjoy themselves in ease and gaiety. With such people it is no wonder that Mr. *Dodd's* success in the pulpit should be great, when we consider that (besides the admirable qualifications of a delicate white hand, a brilliant diamond ring, and a well-disposed *bouquet*) he possessed all that is necessary to constitute an

elegant and graceful *Preacher*. His auditors loved him to a degree of adoration, and tho' his receipts among them were seldom less than 200l. a year, they good-naturedly indulged him with their permission to add the Lectureship of *St. Olave's, Crutched-friars*, to that of *West Ham*, and both parishes consented (without lessening his salary) that he should preach to them alternately.

Amidst all this indulgence, Mr. *Dodd* had a view to further honour and emolument. The *Magdalen Hospital* lay conveniently between his two parishes, and required only a sermon on the *Sunday* evening. But how to succeed in this design was no easy task. He at first offered to officiate for the sake of doing good; but the place was already filled, and besides, there was a something of party in the case among the *Governors*, which contributed to his denial.

This difference of opinion Mr. *Dodd* afterwards took advantage of, and so far brought about the *Governors*, that a Resolution was taken, that the *Hospital Preacher* should either *marry*, or *resign*; it being thought dangerous to admit a single man amongst a number of handsome girls, who were too liable of themselves to give way to improper conversation.

The Chaplain was far from being a pleasing figure, and hence it was presumed he would find it difficult to get into the matrimonial noose; he was poor, and the expences of an increasing family might be too much for his salary. Either way Mr. *Dodd* entertained hopes of success. But unfortunately the Chaplain *married*, and kept his station for more than twelve months; at the end of which time, however, he was forced to quit the Hospital, and take a laborious Curacy in the City.

Mr. *Dodd* thereupon took possession, in 1759, as first Preacher, and brought numerous congregations, whose contributions greatly increased the Hospital Revenue. At the end of one year he thought himself sufficiently established, and therefore asked the *Governors* whether they meant to employ him in future, and on what terms. They directly voted him fifty guineas as a present, and an annual salary of one hundred guineas, provided he would preach thirty sermons, in the winter and spring seasons; a task which, it must be owned, he fulfilled with the greatest credit to himself, and much to the advantage of his penitential audience.

Mr. *Dodd* at this time resided at *Plaistow*, where he kept a private academy, and from the produce of his two Lectureships, the Magdalen Annuity, his School, and Lite-

rary Publications,* his income was sufficient to support him in a life of elegance and grandeur.

In this round of affluence, Mr. Dodd lived for some years, revered in public life, as an undissembling and assiduous Minister, and esteemed in his private capacity, as an affectionate husband, a friendly neighbour, and an honest man. He was about this time appointed one of the *Chaplains in Ordinary to his Majesty*; and the dignity of his character was still further advanced by his taking the degree of LL. D. The nomination to this Chaplainship was deemed a certain omen of ecclesiastical honour, and made *Prebendaries, Canonries, and even Lawn Sleeves*, rise like fairy visions before his sight.

He was now a constant guest at Court; and punctually attentive to the nod of those

* The first Publication of Mr. Dodd's was, *The Beauties of Shakespeare*, a work in very great esteem; after which he published the *Hymns of Callimachus*, translated from the Greek, and illustrated by many very curious and learned notes. His *Discourses on the Parables and Miracles of the New Testament* next appeared, in 4 vols. And when Mr. Dodd was appointed (in 1760) to conduct the *Christian's Magazine*, his *Reflections on Death* (since collected into one vol.) were given in that Work, in separate Numbers. Mr. Dodd also published a Set of *Sermons to Young Men*, the *Visitor*, a Collection of *Essays*, *Hall's Contemplations*, and *Comfort for the Afflicted*; with several other much-admired works. But the greatest in which he was engaged was his valuable *Commentary on the Bible*, published in Folio.

in power ; but it had been better that he had remained constant amongst his *West Ham* friends, than to have tempted Fortune to the utmost ; for, unacquainted as he was with the laws and interests of Church and State, a stranger to the spirit and etiquette of parties, and totally unskilled in the mysterious art of making elections, he was reckoned incapable of political life, and consequently unfit for high places. However, the Doctor did not perceive this so early as he ought to have done ; but, flattered with the idea of *Preferment*, neglected his former friends, and gave into a course of fashionable pleasures, which was by no means suitable to the decrease of his *precarious* income. Nay, his interest at *West Ham* declined so much, that when the Living became vacant, he was unable to make friends enough for succeeding to it, and thus lost what would have been a valuable addition to his other possessions.

The hackneyed and deceitful scheme of *Chapel-building* was then suggested, as the best resource ; and not having any thing of his own, to enable him to undertake a work of such expence, he agreed with one of those adventurous and speculative builders, with which the Metropolis abounds, to erect a Chapel, and to accept of annuities for his payment, with the security of a mortgage upon the building.

To this we may attribute all his subsequent misfortunes. Loaded with new debts, and his annual expence as usual, private loans were solicited and obtained, not always to procure food and raiment, but chiefly to pay increasing annuities, which, like Syfiphus's stone, were still rolling back upon his head, and every year threatening him with the horrors of utter ruin.

This made him hunt after every occasion of making money, and rendered him not so scrupulous as he ought to have been, as to the means by which he might obtain it. But in spite of all his efforts, the Doctor at last was obliged to live at home for six days in the week, and go abroad only on the Sunday.

Among other schemes to get a temporary supply, was that of offering his assistance at any new Chapel of Ease that had been erected. A Chapel at *Hampstead* was in a declining situation, and none was judg'd so fit to restore it, as Dr. *Dodd*. Like a true empiric, he undertook its cure, and left it at the end of one year's attendance, nearly as bad as he found it; and after getting the best fee that could be raised, assigned it to one Mr. G——r, now of *Kensington*, for the sum of sixty pounds down: Mr. G——r officiated in it for another year, and at the expiration of his term just received from

the people his own money only ; with this peculiar satisfaction, that he had preached the gospel, during that period, for *nothing*.

And now a circumstance occurred, which for a time greatly diminished the fame of Dr. *Dodd*.

It was rumoured that a Canonry of *Windsor*, a Prebend of *Durham*, or even a well-conditioned Rectory of five or six hundred a year, would be accepted as proper equivalents for the Living of *St. George's, Hanover Square*. The Doctor, ever vigilant to catch a good bargain, could not let this opportunity slip, but immediately made this alluring offer, That he would give to the favoured candidate for his interest, an annuity of 300*l.* and his living in *Bedfordshire*, which was worth 200*l.* more.

A letter something to this effect was sent to the Lady of a great Law Officer, from whom it was by degrees communicated to a still greater *Personage*; and the consequence was, an erasure of his name from the list of Chaplains, with a positive declaration, that he should never receive the smallest advancement, while his M——y possessed the T——e.

The Doctor was extremely hurt at the heinous light in which the public at first viewed this transaction, and made many efforts to clear himself from any iniquitous intention. In his Preface to the last edition

of *An Account of the Magdalen Hospital*, after expressing his wishes for the success of that Charity, he concludes with this allusion to the incident in question.

“ May it long continue to diffuse its comforts and blessings, when my poor unfortunate breath is yielded up to him that gave it ! And when I am no more, and the memory of my cruel treatment is forgot, yet at least may this Work live to be sweet in the grateful remembrance of those, to whom it communicates good !

“ Conscious of the Rectitude of my Intentions, and delighting in nothing so truly, as imparting Felicity and Consolation, may God enable me to impart it more and more, so long as he thinks fit to continue me here below ! and may he render the pleasing consciousness of doing so, a counterbalance to the evils and sufferings under which, through the cruelty of the merciless, I must go mourning all the days of my life ! ” — *June, 1776.*

Whether the world was really convinced of his innocence, or whether from a prevailing good-nature they were induced to pass over an act not enormously criminal, we do not pretend to determine; by degrees, however, his fame became re-established, and about twelve months after he obtained a Dispensation to hold, with his *Bedfordshire* Living, one that had been given him by his noble Pupil the *Earl of Chesterfield*. We wish it could be added, that his passion for pleasure had abated, and that he had re-

trieved his name in that respect, as well as in others ; for few are the instances where a love of gaiety and dissipation has left the mind uncorrupted by vicious deeds. To remove the incumbrance of his first wants, he brought on himself a greater and more constant one. The receipts of his several Chapels were uncertain, and mostly inadequate to his demands for money ; while his annuitants were punctual and numerous. The bills of his tradesmen lay long neglected, and in an unhappy moment he found himself unable to continue the life he had begun, or properly to get out of his many difficulties. Pressed by want on one hand, and urged by a flattering temptation on the other, he at length resolved on a most fatal act, and in an instant totally destroyed the happiness and reputation of the remainder of his life.

The facility with which money may be obtained on written securities, has by many speculative persons been thought more injurious than beneficial to the community, as being an inducement for some men to extend their schemes, pleasures, and expences beyond the proper bounds, and a temptation to others to obtain money by counterfeit names and signatures. Dr. *Dodd* was unhappily a victim of both these allurements ; for having burthened himself with Annuities, and other *Parliament Debts*,

far beyond his own ability to discharge, his necessities drew him into the dangerous project of raising a supply, by uttering a bond in the name of the present Earl of *Chesterfield*, (to whom he was Chaplain) for 4200l.

According to the Doctor's most solemn declaration, his demands at that time did not exceed 500l. and the reason why the bond was made for 4200l. was, that the requisition of a smaller sum from a Nobleman of Lord *Chesterfield's* character and fortune would probably have created some suspicion. On the other side of the question it has been urged, that Dr. *Dodd's* situation could not be so distressful as to put it out of his power to raise 500l. on his own security; and that therefore his wants must have been greater, or that he had an intention of leaving the kingdom, for which the rest of the money was to have been applied. In such a matter, where the truth lies deep, and concealed by different appearances, it would be presumption to offer any opinion of our own. The actions of all men should appear consistent, even on the most critical examination; yet there is no accounting for what may be done in a state of perplexity and distress.

The plain simple fact is, that a bond for 4200l. was drawn on the 3d of *Feb.* 1777, and given to Mr. *Robinson*, a Broker, to be

negotiated as the bond of Lord *Chesterfield*, and which was to be signed as soon as any person should agree to advance the money. Mr. *Robinson* applied to a Mr. *Mann*, who being informed he was not to see the execution of the bond, refused to lend the sum. Mr. *Fletcher*, a Banker, was then asked, who agreed, in conjunction with Mr. *Peach*, a Silk-merchant, to advance the money, for an annuity of 700*l.* but they both objected to paying the money to Mr. *Robinson*, without a power of attorney from Lord *Chesterfield*. Mr. *Robinson* therefore took the bond to Dr. *Dodd*, and calling the next day, was told by the Doctor that he had seen the bond executed by his Lordship; Dr. *Dodd* then signed his name as a witness, and Mr. *Robinson*, knowing Mr. *Fletcher* would object to one witness only, and having an implicit confidence in the Doctor, wrote his name also, *but not on account of any request from Dr. Dodd*. He then received a power of attorney, signed like the bond, and by virtue of that he received the money, which was paid immediately to Dr. *Dodd*, 3000*l.* in notes of Sir *Charles Raymond* and Co. and the rest in bank notes. Mr. *Robinson* received 100*l.* for his commission, and he supposed Dr. *Dodd* had the same.

It should be mentioned, that, previous to the payment of the money, the bond and

power of attorney were taken to the chambers of Mr. *Manley*, an Attorney, who not being at home, the Clerk informed Mr. *Peach* they were both legal. They were left, however, till the next morning, when Mr. *Manley* observing a blot on the word *Seven* in the condition of the bond, which appeared to have been done rather by design than accident, he communicated his suspicions to Mr. *Fletcher*, who advised him to wait on Lord *Chesterfield*. Accordingly he attended his Lordship in the morning, who disowned any knowledge of the bond, and a warrant against Dr. *Dodd* and Mr. *Robinson* were immediately obtained.

Mr. *Robinson* was first apprehended, and went with Mr. *Manley* and Mr. *Fletcher* in a coach to the Doctor's house, in *Argyle-street*. Soon after they were admitted, the Doctor made his appearance, and the business was opened by Mr. *Manley*, who told him of the charge they had against him. Dr. *Dodd* was very much struck, and deeply affected. He was then informed that Mr. *Robinson* laid the whole charge on him, and being asked what could induce him to do such an act, he replied, URGENT NECESSITY; that he was pressed to pay some tradesmens bills, but that he meant no injury to Lord *Chesterfield*, or any one else, and intended replacing the money in a few months, which

he had a certainty of being able to do. He then publicly declared Mr. *Robinson's* innocence, and returned 3400l. of the money, besides giving a judgment for 600l. which was levied on his goods. Mr. *Robinson* also refunded the 100l. he had received.

Both parties were taken the same day before the Lord Mayor, where all the foregoing circumstances were sworn to. During that examination, the Doctor's situation was extremely pitiable and affecting. Sunk beneath the pressure of his melancholy reflections, he scarcely retained the faculty of his speech, but plainly shewed in his countenance the inward horrors of his mind. At length being asked what he had to offer in his defence, he thus addressed his Lordship :

“My Lord, I am at a loss what to offer in such a situation—I had no intention to defraud my Lord *Chesterfield*.—I hope, that the satisfaction I have made, in returning the money, will atone for the offence.—My life can be of no service to any body, though, if it must be forfeited, take it.—I shall be willing to resign it.—I was pressed exceedingly for 300l. to pay some bills due to tradesmen.—I took this step as a temporary resource.—I should have repaid it in half a year.—My Lord *Chesterfield* cannot but have some tenderness for me, as my pupil.---I love him, [here his tears interrupted him for some time] he knows it.---He has experienced it of me. I regard his honour as my own.---There is no body wishes to prosecute.--Pray, my Lord Mayor, consider my case, and as there is no prosecution, dismiss

me.---I am sure my Lord *Chesterfield* does not want my life.---I hope he will shew clemency to me.---Mercy should triumph over justice."

Mr. *Fletcher* having received back 3500l. and accepted a power of attorney from the Doctor for the remainder of the 4200l. which he had advanced, now shewed no forwardness for a prosecution; on the contrary, Mr. *Manley* contended, that if it was incumbent upon any person, it was upon the noble Earl who had been so frequently mentioned in the business. As to the bond produced, it was now a public instrument; to Mr. *Fletcher* it was no more than blank paper; it was now handed to the public, and any person might use it as an instrument in the hands of justice. But it behoves the noble Earl in particular (says Mr. *Manley*) to shew to the world, that his name has been improperly applied to effect the business; for it was the credit which was given to his Lordship, that occasioned the inconvenience.

The Lord Mayor was of a different opinion; he called upon Mr. *Fletcher* to prosecute, who was bound in a recognizance of 500l. and a mittimus was sent with the prisoners to Wood-street Compter.

At the usual time of collecting the prisoners from the different goals, previous to the Old Bailey Sessions, Mr. *Robinson*

was removed to Newgate, but Dr. *Dodd*, at the intercession of his friends, was suffered to remain in Wood-street Compter, till the 19th of *Feb.* when the Sessions began.*

The next evening, about six o'clock, a matter was discovered that threw the whole Court at the Old Bailey into confusion. It was occasioned by the following order coming into the hands of Mr. Justice *Willes*:

* During his confinement, he is said to have written the following verses :

AMIDST confinement's miserable gloom,
'Midst the lone horrors of this wretched room,
What comforts, gracious Heaven ! dost thou bestow
To soothe my sorrows, and console my woe !
A Wife, beyond the first of woman-kind,
Tender, attach'd, and even to death resign'd.
Dear youthful Friends, in life's ingenious hour
As children zealous to exert each power !
Men, skill'd in wisdom's most sagacious lore,
Solicitous to aid, to save—restore !
Lawyers and Counsellors without a fee
Studious to guide, direct, and set me free !
Nay—from the men I falsely doom'd my foes
The ready offer of all service flows,
While Gratitude, in guise unknown, draws nigh,
Says I was kind, and tenders her supply !
—Above the rest, my Keepers, sooth'd to grief,
With sympathetic pity give relief :
Treat as a guest the Sufferer they revere,
And make it even tranquil to be here !
Great God of Mercy ! if amidst my woes
A stream of such peculiar comfort flows—
Flows full, flows only from thy care divine,
May I not humbly, firmly, Lord, resign,
And trust the issue to thy care alone ?
Yes, Lord, I trust : “ O may thy will be done ! ”

MIDDLESEX, to Wit.

At the Delivery of his Majesty's Gaol of Newgate, holden for the same county, at Justice Hall in the Old Bailey, &c.

"It is ordered, that *Lewis Robinson* be taken before the Grand Jury, and examined on the Bill of Indictment preferred against *William Dodd*, for uttering and publishing a Bond, purporting to be the Bond of the Right Hon. the Earl of *Chesterfield*, and that the said *Lewis Robinson* be afterwards brought back to his Majesty's Gaol of Newgate, to give his Testimony as a Witness against the said *Wm. Dodd* on his trial for the forgery aforesaid.

"By the Court, DEACON.

"To the Keeper of his Majesty's
"Gaol of Newgate."

In consequence of this pretended authority, the evidence of Mr. *Robinson* was received by the Grand Inquest, who returned the bill against the Doctor into Court. By this mode of proceeding, the fears of Mr. *Robinson* were at once removed, and the Prosecutors supplied every defect of evidence against the Divine. They had applied on Thursday to the Court for the admission of Mr. *Robinson's* evidence, and the Bench refused to give any directions; however, by some means, Mr. *Manley's* Clerk prevailed upon Mr. *Deacon*, the Clerk of the Arraignment, to draw up this order. Mr. *Deacon* was called upon in very severe terms to justify his conduct, and a very long altercation ensued; but at last, after an affidavit had

been read, made by Mr. *Deacon*, stating the innocence of his intention, he was severely reprimanded by the Bench, and the matter ended.

On Saturday the TRIAL came on, and the unhappy culprit with slow and gentle steps approached the Bar of Justice. At his first entrance, his spirits seemed much agitated; but, after covering his face for a minute with his handkerchief, he seemed to recover his fortitude, and thus introduced his plea to the Court:

“ My Lords, I am informed a Bill of Indictment, preferred against me, was found by the Grand Jury upon the evidence of Mr. *Robinson*. He, my Lord, is a subscribing witness to the bond, and I conceive will be led to swear any thing by way of exculpating himself; and as the Bill was surreptitiously obtained, I submit to your Lordships, that I ought not to plead to this indictment; to which point of Law I beg to be heard by my Counsel. I beg leave further to make known to your Lordships, that the Gentlemen are bound over to prosecute Mr. *Robinson*.

Mr. HOWARTH, as leading Counsel for the Prisoner, was then heard in support of the objection to plead; the Doctor being in the mean time indulged with a chair. The chief principle that he grounded the force of his argument upon, was, that the evidence before the Grand Jury who found the bill, was not legally competent, and therefore the Prisoner could not be called upon to answer it.

Mr. COWPER followed this gentleman in the same tract of ingenious contention; and Mr. BULLER was afterwards heard on the same side; the Substance of whose arguments was the same with Mr. HOWARTH'S.

Mr. MANSFIELD then rose, on behalf of the Prosecutor, to shew cause why *Robinson* could legally, under all the circumstances, be permitted to rank as a witness. The present, he said, was the first time he ever recollected an enquiry to be seriously made of the evidence requisite and competent to be produced before a Grand Jury; and it will be the first time (said the learned Advocate) if this attempt that is made to stifle any particle of evidence should succeed. The enquiry by this Jury is not, whether the party is guilty? but whether there is probable ground to put him upon his trial? Another Jury are to determine the guilt or innocence of the person accused. As to the order upon which so much had been said by the Gentlemen on the other side, it was an order of course. *Robinson* was in the province of the Court, and therefore Mr. *Deacon* issued, in the common course of official practice, a direction to the Keeper of Newgate, to take him to Hicks's hall before the Grand Jury. He said that he could see no legal objection to *Robinson*'s testimony, for though committed for, he was not charged with, any offence, as the charge could only be by indictment; for

he never yet understood that the commitment of the Magistrate justified any presumption of the guilt; but supposed Mr. *Robinson* and Dr. *Dodd* to be equally guilty. Every day's experience shews that accomplices may be admitted evidence, though their testimony alone cannot convict.

JUSTICE WILLES. The argument for the prisoner is very pointed,---that a prisoner committed for the same crime, cannot be admitted to give his testimony without authority, and here there appears no authority. Mr. *Reynolds*, you are an old Officer of the Court; let us hear from you what has been the practice respecting the admission of accomplices to give evidence.

Mr. REYNOLDS. My Lord, an order goes in course without application, where it appears by the Calendar that a man is committed by the Magistrate as an evidence. I never knew an instance before, where an order was made without application to the Judges, when both were committed as principals to take their trial.

Mr. DAVENPORT, who argued on the same side with Mr. *Mansfield*, contended, that the Grand Jury was obliged to receive all evidence that offered; that if *Robinson* had broke goal, and gone to Hicks's-hall, they were bound to hear him; and that if they refused it, he as Counsel for them in a Court of Law, would find it difficult to say

any thing in their justification; that the determination of their Lordships to refuse the application for the order, did not operate against the validity of it; that their Lordships never did advise either one way or the other, for there was a criterion of law that in all cases directed their conduct.

Baron PERRY. The author of that improper lenity shewn to the prisoner at the bar has occasioned all this confusion. If he had been brought to Newgate at the usual time, his name would have been in the calendar, and all these arguments saved.

Alderman WOOLDRIDGE. I am extremely distressed to find myself called upon in this public manner, for acting agreeable to the dictates of humanity. I happened to be the person who was applied to for continuing Dr. *Dodd* in the Compter. I had the honour to sit with the Lord Mayor when the Doctor was examined; an application was then made, to admit Mr. *Robinson* to bail; it appeared improper for several reasons. I feel for the fair, open, impartial administration of justice: the order is a fraudulent and wicked one, and if Dr. *Dodd* should be convicted by evidence so obtained, I would not for the world be in the place of the Clerk, at whose hands the Doctor's blood will be required.

To prevent further altercation, it was then agreed that the opinion of the Twelve

Judges should be taken, on the legality of *Robinson's* evidence, if the prisoner was convicted, and thereupon they proceeded with the Trial.

After the indictment had been read, and the Jury sworn, Mr. *Mansfield* opened the case on the part of the prosecution with a degree of humanity that did honour to his feelings. He declared that the gentlemen at whose instance the prosecution was carried on, by no means wished to urge any matter which might look like malice or revenge, and lamented that he was under the necessity of bringing so atrocious a charge against a gentleman of the prisoner's character and profession. It was his duty, he said, to confirm the charge by calling witnesses, and he begg'd that they alone might be attended to.

The particulars of the forgery, and the circumstances which led to its discovery, (as related in the former part of this narrative) were then clearly proved, and the testimony of Mr. *Robinson* fixed the several points of uttering and publishing fully upon the prisoner. Dr. *Dodd* was therefore called upon for his defence, when he spoke to the following purport:

“UPON the evidence which has this day been produced against me, I find it very difficult for me to address your Lordships: There is no man in the world, my Lords, who has a deeper sense of the

heinous nature of the crime, for which I stand indicted, than myself. I view it in all its extent of malignancy towards a commercial state like ours. But, my Lords, I humbly apprehend, though no lawyer, that the moral turpitude and malignity of the crime, both in the eye of the law, of reason, and of religion, consists in the intention. I am informed, my Lords, that the Act of Parliament on this head runs perpetually in that stile, "with an intention to defraud." Such an intention, my Lords, and Gentlemen of the Jury, I believe has not been attempted to be proved upon me; and the consequences that have happened, which have appeared before you, sufficiently prove, that a perfect and ample restitution has been made. I leave it, my Lords, to you and the Gentlemen of the Jury, to consider, that if an unhappy man, of any kind, ever deviates from the law of right, yet if in the single first moment of recollection, he does all he can to make a full and perfect amends, what, my Lords, and Gentlemen of the Jury, can God and man desire further? My Lords, there are a variety of little circumstances, too tedious to trouble you with, with respect to this matter. Was I to give a loose to my feelings, I have many things to say, which I am sure you would feel, with respect to me: But, my Lords, as it appears on all hands,—as it appears, Gentlemen of the Jury, in every view, that no injury, intentional or real, has been done to any man upon the face of the earth, I hope, that therefore you will consider the case in its true state of clemency. I must also observe to your Lordships, that, although I have met with all candour in this Court, yet I have been pursued with oppressive cruelty. I have been prosecuted after the most express engagements, after the

most solemn assurances, after the most delusive, soothing arguments of Mr. Manly. I have been prosecuted with a cruelty scarcely to be paralleled. A person, avowedly criminal in the same indictment with myself, has been brought forth as a capital witness against me;—a fact, I believe, totally unexampled. My Lords, oppressed as I am with infamy, loaded as I am with distress, sunk under this cruel prosecution, your Lordships, and Gentlemen of the Jury, cannot think life a matter of any value to me. No, my Lords, I solemnly protest, that death, of all blessings, would be the most pleasant to me after this pain. Yet I have ties which call upon me, ties which render me desirous even to continue this miserable existence! I have a Wife, my Lords, who for twenty-seven years has lived an unparalleled example of conjugal attachment and fidelity; and whose behaviour, during this trying scene, will draw tears of approbation, I am sure, even from the most inhuman. My Lords, I hope I don't exceed in what I say. My Lords, I have creditors, honest men, that will lose much by my death: I hope, for the sake of justice towards them, some mercy will be shewn to me; and if, upon the whole, these considerations at all avail with you, my Lords, and you Gentlemen of the Jury; if upon the most partial survey of the matter, not the slightest intention of injury can appear to any one; and I solemnly declare, it was in my power to replace it in three months: of this I assured Robinson frequently, and had his solemn assurances no man should be privy to it but Mr. Fletcher and himself; and if no injury is done to any man upon the earth, I then hope, I trust, I confide myself in the tenderness, humanity, and protection of my Country."

Baron PERRY, who tried the cause, here summed up the evidence, and made a few observations as he proceeded. It is needless to say, that the Judge discharged his duty, by circumstantially stating what had fallen from the mouths of the witnesses. He pointed out to them the two matters on which the prisoner chiefly rested his defence, viz. "his having no intention to defraud, and his having made such ample restitution, that not any person was injured." And he submitted it to the Jury, how far these pleas ought to operate on their minds, and whether they were sufficient to ground a verdict of acquittal upon. He did not, however, let the Jury leave the Court, without informing them of the danger of admitting such pleas as exculpations, after a proof of Forgery; and stating to them the possibilities in law and reason against the truth of the unhappy prisoner's defence, and the power of making restitution, even where it had been intended, by a criminal, at the moment of his violating the law.

The Jury, about half past four o'clock, withdrew out of Court, and returned in about ten minutes, and brought in their verdict GUILTY.

The unhappy Convict was then led back to Newgate, to wait the decision of the

twelve Judges, on the legality of *Robinson's* evidence.

In this dreadful interval he received every consolation which the kindness of his friends could possibly bestow. An attempt had been made before his trial, to obtain the forged bond from the Lord Mayor, on the ground of its being cancelled by Dr. *Dodd*, and consequently his property; but not succeeding therein, they applied wherever they supposed any interest could be made. The Jury who gave the verdict strongly recommended him to mercy; many of the Nobility presented petitions to his Majesty to the same effect; and every argument was employed that ingenuity could suggest, to palliate his offence, and procure a favourable sentence.

The Rev. Mr. *Butler*, Dr. *Cogan*, Mr. *Hawes*, and many other Gentlemen often visited him during his confinement; and Mrs. *Dodd* manifested the most faithful attachment to her unhappy partner, in a time of such extreme distress, constantly attending him in prison, and using every endeavour to render his affliction more supportable.

Yet notwithstanding this, the good effect they aimed at was far from being produced. The intercession of his friends was not successful enough to give him any hopes of life; and so difficult is it to reduce even our

own doctrines to practice, that the man who had before given comfort to afflicted sinners, and cheered the gloom of death's dark passage, for the good of others, was now unable to support the thought of his own dissolution. The fear of death overcame all his fortitude; and though he dared not *hope*, yet he earnestly *wished* to have his life prolonged.

After the Lent Circuits were finished, the Judges met to give their opinions on the validity of Mr. Robinson's evidence, when it was unanimously admitted to be legal. Accordingly, on Friday, May 16, being the last day of the Old Bailey Sessions, Dr. Dodd was led from his apartments, supported by six Gentlemen, and placed at the bar; and the usual proclamation for silence being made, the Clerk of the Arraigns asked him what he had to say why judgment of death should not pass against him according to law? The miserable man, with folded hands, and streaming eyes, addressed the Recorder in the following speech:

"My Lord, I now stand before you, a dreadful example of human infirmity. I entered upon a public life, with the expectations common to young men whose education has been liberal, and whose abilities have been flattered. And when I became a clergyman, I considered myself as not impairing the dignity of the order. I was not an idle, nor, I hope,

an useless minister. I taught the truths of Christianity with the zeal of conviction, and the authority of innocence. My labours were approved; my pulpit became popular; and, I have reason to believe, that of those who heard me, some have been preserved from sin, and some have been reclaimed. Condescend, my Lord, to think, if these considerations aggravate my crime, how much they must embitter my punishment.

“ Being distinguished and elated by the approbation of mankind, I had too much confidence in myself: and thinking my integrity—what others thought it—established in sincerity, and fortified by religion, I did not consider the danger of vanity, nor suspect the deceitfulness of my own heart. The day of conflict came, in which temptation surprised and overwhelmed me! I committed the crime, which I entreat your Lordship to believe, that my conscience hourly represents to me in its full bulk of mischief and malignity. Many have been overpowered by temptation, who are now among the penitent in heaven.

“ To an act, now waiting the decision of vindictive justice, I will not presume to oppose the counterbalance of almost thirty years,—(a great part of the life of man) passed in exciting and exercising charity; in relieving such distresses as I now feel; in administering those consolations which I now want. I will not otherwise extenuate my offence, than by declaring—what many circumstances make probable, that I did not intend to be signally fraudulent. Nor will it become me to apportion my own punishment, by alledging, that my sufferings have been not much less than my guilt. I have fallen from a reputation, which ought to have made me cautious, and from a fortune, which ought to have given me content. I am sunk at once into po-

verty and scorn : my name and my crime fill the ballads in the streets ; the sport of the thoughtless, and the triumph of the wicked !

“ It may seem strange, my Lord, that, remembering what I have lately been, I should still wish to continue what I am ; but contempt of death, how speciously soever it might mingle with Heathen virtues, has nothing in it suitable to Christian penitence.

“ Many motives impel me to beg earnestly for life. I feel the natural horror of a violent death, and the universal dread of untimely dissolution. I am desirous to recompence the injury I have done to the Clergy, to the world, and to religion ; and to efface the scandal of the crime, by the example of my repentance. But, above all---I wish to die with thoughts more composed, and calmer preparation.

“ The gloom and confusion of a prison, the anxiety of a trial, and the inevitable vicissitudes of passion, leave not the mind in a due disposition for the holy exercises of prayer and self-examination. Let not a little life be denied me, in which I may, by meditation and contrition, prepare myself to stand at the tribunal of Omnipotence, and support the presence of that Judge, who shall distribute to all according to their works ; who will receive to pardon the repenting sinner, and from whom the merciful shall obtain mercy.

“ For these reasons, my Lord, amidst shame and misery, I yet wish to live ; and humbly implore, that I may be recommended by your Lordship, to the clemency of his Majesty.”

Here he sunk down, quite overwhelmed with agony, and, after some little time, the Recorder spoke to him as follows :

"Dr. William Dodd, you are convicted of the crime of uttering a bond as true, knowing the same to be forged: you have had a very fair and candid trial, and every opportunity of exculpating yourself which the law can give you. You, yourself, have admitted the crime which you have committed, and I am glad to see the contrition and sorrow which you express for the same, which is the best preparation you can make for the dreadful consequence: it would therefore be highly improper for me to enlarge upon the heinousness of the crime you so fully acknowledge. But one thing I could wish you to avoid, that is, every attempt to palliate or extenuate a crime of such magnitude.——Your education, abilities, rank in life, and above all, your sacred function, are the circumstances that aggravate the matter, and spread the pernicious effects of the bad example among mankind. By no means, therefore, go about to extenuate your crime, but prepare yourself for the awful event. It remains, therefore, only for me to perform the awful task of passing the sentence upon you, which the law has provided; that is, You, Dr. William Dodd, are to be taken to the place from whence you came, and from thence to the place of execution, where you are to be hanged till you are dead; and the Lord have mercy upon your soul!"

The miserable Divine then retired, with trembling steps, groaning with unutterable anguish, and exclaiming in the most lamentable moanings, "Lord Jesus receive my soul!"

There was now no hope of lessening the prisoner's sufferings, but by petitioning for the Royal clemency. The Queen, who has on every occasion shewn herself a pattern of humanity and condescension, was entreated to intercede for him, and the compassion of his Majesty was almost daily supplicated by Nobles, Clergymen, and benevolent individuals.

But the intercession of the Citizens of *London* most attracted the attention of the public, and occasioned a revival of those arguments for and against the Doctor's suffering an exemplary death, which before filled the public prints, and engrossed all private conversation.

A Court of Common Council was called on *Friday, June 6*; for the purpose of considering of a Petition to the King, in favour of *Dr. Dodd*; and *Mr. Hawes*, a founder of the Humane Society for recovering drowned persons, *Mr. Winterbottom*, Secretary to the *Magdalen*, and *Mr. Neal*, Treasurer to the Society for releasing Small Debtors, gave many proofs of the services which *Dr. Dodd* had done to thousands of his fellow creatures, by his endeavours in the support of those charitable institutions.

Hence it was urged, that he had some claim to a milder sentence; that as Forgery was an offence against society, they ought to weigh the good against the evil; and

that the good in this case greatly preponderated; that the law made on this subject was merely for the protection and benefit of commerce, and that if so great a commercial city was willing to remit the severity of the punishment, his Majesty could not be unwilling to attend to their petition for mercy.

It was therefore determined to apply for some remission of his sentence, and the following Petition was presented:

To the KING's Most Excellent Majesty.
The humble Petition of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of London, in Common Council assembled;

Most humbly sheweth,

THAT William Dodd, Doctor of Laws, now lying under sentence of death in your Majesty's goal of Newgate, for the crime of forgery, has, for a great part of his life, set an useful and laudable example of diligence in his calling, which in many instances has produced the most happy effect.

That he has been the first institutor, and a very earnest and active promoter, of several modes of useful charity, and therefore may be considered as having been, on many occasions, a benefactor to the public.

Your Petitioners therefore considering his case, as in some of its circumstances unprecedented and peculiar, and encouraged by your Majesty's known clemency, most humbly recommend the said William Dodd to your Majesty's most gracious consideration, in hope

that he will be found not altogether unworthy to stand an example of Royal mercy.

And your Petitioners shall ever pray, &c.

To these Petitions were added the entreaties of Dr. *Dodd's* family, and of the whole parish of *West Ham* (four persons only excepted); but his Majesty refused to give any answer, and ordered them to be sent to the Secretary of State's office, to be produced in Council, when the Recorder should make his Report.

Those who called themselves the Friends of Justice, now took occasion to make many animadversions on the dangerous tendency of excusing Forgery; and were rather severe on the conduct of the City of *London*, for taking to themselves an authority over the commerce of *Great-Britain*. It was admitted, that an error on the side of humanity was very pardonable; but the remission of the Doctor's sentence would in time (it was thought) be drawn into example; and there were even at that moment too many instances of Forgery * in agitation, to allow so dangerous a precedent. The Citizens of *London*, it is true, as trading men, were injured by the Forgery; so was also

* At this time there were near twenty persons either convicted or suspected of the same crime, most of whom were concerned in a Forgery on the Bank, to the amount of 30,000l.

every man in the same capacity throughout the kingdom; and therefore it was thought an act of the greatest arrogance in the Common Council, to pretend to excuse an offence, wherein they comparatively were but little concerned.

The Doctor's friends had grounded *their* plea chiefly on his having no intention to deceive. On the contrary, it was asserted, that a fraudulent intention was manifest thro' the whole; for the reasons mentioned in page 13. of this Narrative; that the law deemed every such act an intentional fraud, and had it not been necessary to enforce the law, the lives of several persons (no less worthy than Dr. *Dodd*) would have been saved from such a melancholy end.

Another argument in the Doctor's behalf was, the Sanctity of his Cloth, and the evils which would probably arise to the morals of society, by his execution. To this it was replied, that the idea was in the highest degree absurd, and so far from being true, that nothing could bring the Cloth into so much disgrace, or so much affect the morals of the people, as the saving any man on account of his profession; that men would learn to stigmatize every Clergyman as a licensed profligate, protected from punishment even for the worst of crimes; and from such a contempt of their *lives*, would naturally arise a contempt of their *doctrines* also.

Besides, it was said that the Clergy needed not any encouragement to be less attentive to their duty than they were at present; which they certainly would be, if Dr. *Dodd* was pardoned.

Here we should close the controversy; but for the sake of introducing a proof how far the Doctor's advocates were desirous of *straining* every argument in his favour. Among other reasons for shewing lenity to him, it was mentioned that he was pressed by a *generous motive*, the payment of his tradesmens bills, and that he had *honourably* excused Mr. *Robinson*, whom he might have charged as an accomplice of his guilt. But this plea met with an immediate and very strong objection, *viz.* that scarcely any man, nay, that even Dr. *Dodd* himself did not pay his tradesmen from *generous* motives, but to obtain fresh credit, and support his former way of life; and that it was the weakest idea imaginable to excuse any convict, because there was one species of injury to which he had not yet arrived. It was further observed too, that tho' he had acquitted Mr. *Robinson* in the first stage of the business, he had afterwards most ungenerously and wickedly accused him, in his address to the Court when his trial came on. He there asserted that Mr. *Robinson* was "a subscribing witness to the Bond, and would be led to swear any thing, by

way of exculpating himself." See page 20.

During such a contest, it was impossible but that the Doctor and his friends should be agitated with alternate hopes and fears, as the weight of the argument seemed to preponderate for or against him. At length, however, the affair came to some kind of determination; and on *Friday, June 13*, the Recorder made his Report to the King.

The Privy Council held on this Report was remarkably full, all the great officers attending, as well as several Members who seldom go but on extraordinary occasions. Lord *Weymouth* carried in the petitions, and after they had been read over, the Lord Chancellor and Lord *Mansfield* are said to have spoken near half an hour each on the merits of them, and on the bad effects of relaxing, in any one instance, the laws against forgery;—one of the noble Personages closing his speech with these remarkable words, "If Dr. *Dodd* is saved, *Robert Perreau* was murdered."

There were three convicts mentioned in the report, viz. Dr. *William Dodd*, for forgery; and *James Lucas* and *Joseph Harris*, for a highway robbery; and after a considerable time spent in Council, his Majesty was pleased to respite *Lucas*, and to order the two others for execution on Friday June 27.

The fatal resolution of the Council respecting Dr. *Dodd* threw a melancholy gloom over the countenance of every one, not excluding those whom the unfortunate Divine could not number among his friends; the report of a respite being intended by the Sovereign had raised the expectation of the public to a confidence, that some ray of mercy would be extended; —the unhappy man, no doubt, had caught the flame of hope, and secretly joined in the general dependence. What then must have been his feelings at hearing the dreadful news! let the reader reflect but for a moment at the shock of such a disappointment, and whatever opinion he may form of the crime, he will bestow a tear of pity upon the miserable sufferer.

Mrs. *Dodd* was with her husband when the melancholy news arrived of his being ordered for execution. She sat for some seconds in a kind of torpid suspense, when suddenly clasping her hands together, she exclaimed, “O God! enable me to bear this!” and immediately fainted. She was carried to her apartments in the neighbourhood of Ludgate-hill, soon after, in an agony of grief not to be described.

Nor was the miserable Culprit less affected at the melancholy information. For a long time his heart seemed to labour with unutterable sorrow, but at length he cried

out in dreadful anguish, "Is there then no mercy to be found among men? Gracious God! if it be thy pleasure, thou wilt enable me to bear my sufferings; yet not my will but thine be done."

During the time of his confinement, Dr. *Dodd* had on many occasions endeavoured to make himself useful to his fellow prisoners, by admonishing them to consider well the nature of their situation, and to bring themselves to a state of true repentance, as the only means of salvation. This task was in itself extremely disagreeable, and liable to much objection from the more hardened part of his auditors; yet such an awe did they feel in the Doctor's presence, that he was heard with singular attention.

On *Friday, June 6*, after the prayers for the day had been read by Mr. *Villette*, the Ordinary, the Doctor made a most pathetic Address to his unhappy brethren, on the 3d verse of *Psalms* li.

By way of preface to this address, the Doctor recited to his audience the story of *Paul* and *Silas*, (*Acts* xvi. 19---30.) who were cast into prison, for preaching the Gospel. "At midnight, (says he) *Paul* and *Silas*, supported by a good conscience, prayed to the Lord; and suddenly there was a great earthquake, and the prisoners' chains were loosed. The jailor at first thought the prisoners were fled; but when he saw them freed from their bonds by the agency of

divine power, he was convinced that they were the servants of God, and therefore fell down before them, saying, *What must I do to be saved?*

“ This is the important question which every man should hourly ask himself; and had it not been neglected by us, we had never appeared in this place. A little time for recollection is yet allowed us; let no particle of this be lost, but let us fill our remaining life with all the duties which our condition allows us to practise.

“ To teach others what ‘ they must do to be saved,’ has long been my employment and profession. You see with what confusion and dishonour I now stand before you—no more in the pulpit of instruction, but on the same humble seat with yourselves. You are not to consider me now, as speaking with the authority of a pastor to his flock. I am here guilty, like yourselves, of a capital offence; and sentenced, like yourselves, to a public and shameful death.

“ I am now, like you, enquiring, ‘ what I must do to be saved?’ and stand here to communicate to you what that enquiry suggests. Hear me with attention, my fellow prisoners; and in your melancholy hours of retirement, consider well what I offer to you from the sincerity of my good will; and from the deepest conviction of a penitent heart.”

He then proceeds to shew, that Salvation is promised, on the terms of Faith, Obedience, and Repentance, which several heads he fully explains.

On the second head he says, " Our obedience is now restrained to a small circle, submission to the will of God, and a calm acquiescence in his wisdom and his justice.

— We must not allow ourselves to repine at those miseries which have followed our offences, but suffer, with humility and patience, the punishment which we deserve.

" When we consider the wickedness of our past lives, and the danger of having been summoned to the final judgment without preparation, we shall, I hope, return thanks to God for what once seemed the most dreadful of all evils, our detection and conviction! We shrink back from the public eye, turned as it is upon us with indignation and contempt. Imprisonment is afflictive, and ignominious death is fearful! But let us compare our condition with that which our actions might reasonably have incurred. The robber might have died in the act of violence. The man of fraud might have sunk into the grave, while he was enjoying the gain of his artifice:— and *where then had been our hope?* We have now leisure for thought, and opportunities of instruction, and whatever we suffer from offended laws, may yet reconcile ourselves to God, who,

if we sincerely *seek* him, will assuredly be found."

A further extract from this Address would only swell the present Work beyond due bounds. We shall therefore proceed to the more important circumstances of the Doctor's history, *viz.* his suffering the awful punishment which the law appointed.

The Doctor, for the last three or four days, took hardly enough to support nature. He expressed on *Thursday* the most earnest desire of taking leave of those kind friends, who had exerted themselves thro' his severe troubles; and shewed an unexpected fortitude. The most trying time to him, was the final parting with Mrs. *Dodd*, the evening before he suffered; but he supported it with great firmness; she was taken away almost frantic, and the next day went into the country.

At nine o'clock on *Friday* morning, *June 27*, one of the Sheriffs of *London*, with the Under Sheriffs, City Marshal, and a number of Peace Officers, attended at *Newgate*, and soon after the unfortunate *Divine*, and *HARRIS*, the convict for a highway robbery, appeared at the gate; the former was put into a mourning coach, and the latter into a cart, where his father (a venerable old man with grey hairs) waited to receive him. The gloomy procession then began to move, thro' greater crouds of people than had ever been known on such an occasion.

About half past ten they reached the place of execution, and the cart being drawn under the gallows, *Harris* was first tied up. A signal was then made for the coach, which waited at a little distance, to draw up, and the Doctor ascended the cart with his arms tied, dressed in a suit of black, and a full-bottom'd wig, over which he wore a flapped hat. Here he joined his two spiritual friends for some time in the most fervent devotion; after which he took his unhappy brother convict by the hand, and exhorted him to rely upon the merits of their Redeemer, who suffered for all mankind, for support in that hour of trial and extreme adversity. Again they all joined in certain prayers, selected for the mournful occasion; after which Dr. *Dodd* gave money to the executioner, and took an affectionate leave of his friends. He then assisted in putting on the cap, drew it over his face, and remained for some time with his hands clasped, as in a serious and resigned prayer. At length the awful moment arrived! the cart was drawn away, and the convicts were launched into eternity.

After hanging an hour, their bodies were cut down, and delivered to their respective friends; the Doctor's was received in a shell, covered with a sheet, which, being put into a hearse drawn by four horses, and followed by a mourning coach and four

horses, was thus conveyed by the New Road, to the undertaker, who had the care of his interment.

On the whole of this melancholy business, Dr. *Dodd's* behaviour was consistent with his character as a man and a Christian; he appeared a true penitent, but not so shocked as might be expected from his previous desire of life. Just as he was turned off there was an universal silence: tears flowed from many eyes, but from one quarter there was almost instantly a general groan that was deplorably affecting; and a mournful shriek (apparently a woman's voice) that pierced the hearts of those who heard it. He appeared not to suffer much in dying, though it was near two minutes before all motion ceased.

Thus perished the mortal part of Dr. WILLIAM DODD;---a man long honour'd, lov'd, and reverenc'd by the world, in the several characters of a Preacher, Writer, Tutor, Friend, and Husband; a man who has been an useful and valuable member of society, and whom humanity should lead us to consider, as one who erred only from some momentary impulse of imperfect nature; who, in the recollection of reason, hath found repentance; who patiently resigned that life which was become a forfeit to the law, and sought from Heaven that forgiveness which is not to be found upon earth. May he have found it in the regions

of immortality! May his fatal example
 teach an obedience to those laws, which
 punish the crime only, and forget the man!
 And may every one who shall be hereafter
 tempted to commit a Forgery, remember
 that Death inevitably follows the stroke of
 the pen!

E P I T A P H.

HERE sleeps, inurn'd, the minister to woe,
 That taught the heart to feel—the eye to flow;
 From whom Distress ne'er came with bosom griev'd,
 Whose tongue persuaded, and whose hand reliev'd;
 What eye, unbloated, could observe his fall—
 Just—where he could—benevolent to all.
 Here cease enquiry—blessing made him blest;
 Let Pity veil the page that speaks the rest.

A
LETTER from the Right Hon. the
Countess of HUNTINGDON,

TO
The Rev. Dr. WILLIAM DODD,
While under Sentence of Death.

FROM the first hearing of your unfortunate situation, I could not look for any less supplies of support and comfort for you, than to him who chose for our sakes to be numbered with the transgressors. You are master of every rational and scripture argument, and in this, perhaps, inferior to few. And I earnestly pray God, these may have their place and their times of consolation for you.

But reason, or the wisest conclusions drawn from even truth itself, neither removes the stings of guilt, nor possesses the soul with that peace, which ever passes the best informed understanding. O no! nothing but that voice of Almighty power that spoke from the Cross to your suffering companion there, can be your point now: And we all, like him, must pass sentence upon ourselves, and say, "We indeed receive the due reward of our deeds." How soon the welcome request, "Lord remember me, &c." reached the heart of our Divine Substitute; how speedy the relief: how lasting and complete the comfort. The meaning of my prayers and tears for your grief, would have no other language but "Go and do thou likewise. Forgive, and do not wonder you should find my views so limited as this seems for your only relief. Were life extended to its latest possible period, the only solid or well-grounded hope of happiness must subsist purely by this interior blessing; as making the little good we have on earth have all its safety, and all the various evils of

a miserable world wisely or rationally supported by it. Thus every thing unites to render the opportunity of your suffering heart the happy subject of this mercy. This mercy, once obtained, will bear you through the fluctuating emotions, and various views of life and death, which so immediately and naturally operate upon you, and even cause you to glory in tribulation.

May you thus rejoice in the truth and power of that Religion you have so long professed and taught to others, and becoming a witness of our Saviour's grace to sinners, be enabled to preach the best sermon you ever preached in your life, and to people the most miserable and ignorant of the high Christian privilege of salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ!

—Should he answer the affectionate cries of his poor unworthy people for you, and that arm of infinite consolation he stretched out for your strength and eternal blessedness, how little will the appendages of death appear, which to mere suffering nature is so bitter; and how thankfully will you see Justice and Mercy thus met together, and mixed in that cup, so severe in the eyes of others. Or should the tender compassions of Royal Mercy be extended to save from the present suffering hour, yet only in life, or in the more remote event of death, this grace must be the one cause of praise, through time and eternity for you. It is for this I would most affectionately recommend you day and night. And it is to him who is able to do abundantly above all we can ask or think, and thus I beg to remain a sympathising friend, and Reverend Sir, your humble servant,

S. Wales.

S. HUNTINGDON.

F I N I S.

